

Mr. Oswald Tower, the official interpreter of our rules came to the rescue, and he saved the day. The coaches certainly tried to put him on the spot, but he was equal to the occasion. He was bombarded with intricate questions and plays which might result in one basket in a game, and was on the hazy side of the rule. So Mr. Tower offered his official interpretation of the three second rule, which is as follows.

" The following applies to a player who is in his free throw lane while his team is in control of the ball:

If he comes to a stop inside the free throw lane, then moves into the outer half of the circle and receives the ball immediately, the count is continuous from the time he first enters the lane until he gets rid of the ball or moves out of the lane.

If he does not receive the ball immediately, the count ceases when he reaches the outer half of the circle, and a new count begins if he later receives the ball.

In no other case is the time he is inside the free throw lane, without the ball, added to the time he is in the outer half of the circle.

The foregoing interpretation restricts attempts to defeat the purpose of the three second rule, without unduly limiting legitimate plays which start inside the free throw line."

Sgd.: Oswald Tower  
December 5, 1938.

Your editor hopes that the above interpretation is lived up to, and that coaches will live up to the rule. We should all be smart enough to do so; otherwise throw the rule out again and get back to a purely defensive game. Legitimate beautiful plays can be set up and let us hope that we do not hear of shaky plays as regards the three second rule and also no rough-house.

Frank W. Keaney,  
Editor of Bulletin.